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### IMPROVING THE NATIONAL DIGESTION.

THEN a Government suit to dissolve the United States Steel Corporation was mooted it was affirmed that the actual filing of the suit might clear the air, since business then would know the worst. Suit has been brought against this giant corporation, but is not the "worst" also the best, as it is fabled to be East of Suez? Will not the effect be to rid industry of an incubus, rather than deprive it of an incentive?

For half a century the persisting struggle of American enterprise has been against inflation, which may be called the national mania. One section after another, one class after another, has attempted to get something for nothing or sell nothing for something. When the inflation craze raged around the greenback, business men of the West were behind it. When it raged around the fifty-cent silver dollar, farmers were behind it. Is not the era of which "the billion dollar trust" is the flower just another inflation craze, this time with the business interests of the industrial East behind it?

Are not all three "get-rich-quick" phenomena manifestations of the national delusion that one may lift himself over the stile by his bootstraps?

The Greenbackers wanted an irredeemable paper currency so that money could be had without the tedious process of saving it, and debts could be scaled off by paying them in a debased medium. The advocates of Sixteen-to-One wanted to halve the debtor's burden by taking the gold guarantee from behind the silver dollar; they wanted to give producers of silver a hundred per cent. bonus by putting the dollar mark on fifty cents' worth of ore. Has not Big Business essayed a like thing.

Herbert Knox Smith, Federal Commissioner of Corporations, save as much when he reports that the United States Steel Corporation is capitalized at \$1,468,000,000 but has a valuation of \$682,000,000. Combinations of its type have not inflated the currency as those benighted Populists, Weaver and Pfeffer and Bryan, sought to do, but they have inflated their securities and exchanged them for currency. Does it make much difference whether the Government or the American Bank Note Company "creates" a value by stamping a piece of paper, so long as the value is not there?

Two great landmarks have been set up in the fight against inflation. One was Grant's veto in 1874 of a bill increasing the issue of greenbacks to \$400,000,000. John Sherman said then: "If now, in this time of temporary panic, we yield one single inch to the desire for paper money in this country, we shall pass the Rubicon, and there will be no power in Congress to check the issue." Congress did pass the Rubicon, but Grant turned it back, and the historian Rhodes calls his veto the most praiseworthy act of that adminis-

The American people set up the second landmark in 1896 when they defeated Bryan on the free silver issue. The leadership in that fight to put a dollar's worth of value behind every dollar of currency was taken by the business men of the East. Then they proceeded to do in the era of combination what they had decried when the farmer, the Populist and the silver miner undertook it. They put two and two together and called the sum eight instead of four, and issued and sold securities for the larger amount.

Is not the third landmark in the war against inflation the suit just begun against the biggest of these corporations—the suit to which the Supreme Court decisions in the Standard Oil and Tobacco Trust cases have led up?

It was good for the nation when Grant pierced the greenback inflation bubble with a veto. It was good for the nation when the an shattered the silver inflation bubble with a hostile majority. It will be good for the nation that the Taft Administration has subjected the stock inflation bubble to the solvent processes of the courts.

In Grant's Administration business carried the uneasy load of undigested greenbacks. In Bryan's heyday business was menaced with a diet of half-digested silver. Ever since, business has been oppressed by what Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan-who ought to knowhas called "undigested securities."

The vain effort to digest them has made about all the economic phenomena of a dozen years-the alternate fever and chills of Wall street speculation; the emergence of the "Pittsburgh millionaire;" the periodic flurries over the cost of living; a diffused if formless sense of grievance; a pervasive political unrest.

Stock inflation carried with it not only the purpose but the necessity that all benefits possible to combinations should be appropriated by the combining companies, and that instead of being shared by the consumer they should be taken out of his skin. The only way to put value into the paper securities of the big trusts was to extract it from consumers' pockets. That was done through higher prices, and the process spelled naked oppression.

It is absurd to call Government action against this inflation a mischievous purpose to arrest economic law. Economic law equally abhors the attempts to make paper money, standard silver dollars and marketable securities by fiat alone. It visits each offense with impartial penalties, and rewards in the general well-being every refusal to accept shadow for substance, every return 'to sound

# Letters From the People

o the Editor of The Evening World: In answer to Edward D. Ohl's "Frensi- 'Fan' Finance" problem I would say that the gentleman from Philly Why so many women are employed is was out il and a few cents interest. not on account of their ability but be-

He gave the frenzied "fan" \$1.50 for the cause they will work for a small salary, ticket and at the pawnbroker's gave out often not having to pay board, and another \$1.50 and interest. That is \$3 spending all their wages on dress. Empaid out. He gets the 12 bill from ployers find the girls spend too much the pawnbroker. Therefore he is out E. REGEL \$1 and interest. Women in Business.

o the Editor of The Evening World:

M. C. H. says that women are superior | factory perhaps he pays a small salary men as office workers. In refuting America, employing a great many

men for other office duties, told me that for ordinary stenographic work they found women satisfactory, but for the detail work they had to have men. time before the looking glass, to say nothing of the desire to secure bargains at the dry goods and music stores. If your employer has found men unsatis

Were 1900 and 1904 leap years?

## Can You Beat It? By Maurice Ketten.





y OW, for goodness sake." band up in the hall and sank her voice so the visitors in the front room could not hear her, "do not try to tell your old funny stories to Prof. Ponsonby Pomfret and his wife. They are intellectual people and will not be at all interested in the side-splitting whimsicalities that you retail about your friend Gus, the saloonkeeper, and Slavinsky, the glass-put-in man." "Me? I'm the high brow guy," said affront the most erudite or shook the supersensitive and fastidious."

And he allowed himself to be led into the front room and to be introduced to Prof. Ponsonby Pomfret of Pompton and his wife. The Professor was tiny, smug looking man with an aquinose and a heavy mop of hair, worn long. His wife was a little blue-eyed. yellow-haired woman, who looked like a canary, and, as it transpired, had about the same mental equipment as that feathered twitterer

"I am so giad it has stopped raining at last, although I suppose it was good

In Philadelphia.



"How did you manage to sell all 'Jack the Glantkiller' down to the value of a minute.

### Mr. Jarr Is Awed by A Man From Pompton

for the crops," said M.s. Jair, starting feet in influencing a rainfall where tone, with Mrs. Jarr, as to whether there was none before. In other words, Maude Adams was more like Mary An-The people of Harlem discuss the putting water on the land brings water derson than Mary Anderson had been crops continually, hence it is always a on the land."

safe topic, especially in the winter.

"Since deforestation has denuded the Atlantic seaboard States." said Prof. Prof. Pomfret. "In the New England "What is it, my dear?" Pomfret, (who could talk interestingly States, on sandy or clay soil, it is nec-on any subject, even crops and the essary to use eight to twelve tons of weather) "the precipitation of moisture fertilizer per acre for one crop per year,

were formerly arid lands in the West, "Who is she?" asked Mrs. Pomfret has had, I understand, a wonderful ef- who had been gabbling in an under

in this section has been erratic and while, without the aid of fertilizers, they can raise two crops a year on "The modern science of irrigation," most irrigated land, especially in the ventured Mr. Jarr, "especially in what case of alfalfa."

By Barton Wood Currie

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Memoirs of a Commuter

A Tragedy of the Housemaids' Yenna while Mrs. Robb and I were

Union.

ever mentioned this union to me?" He did not reply for five full seconds, got away with her trunk plus plunder. and I saw that his face was writhing. "It is not a subject I choose to dis- union maids of all colors and designs, mean it" Had I murdered both my grandmothers two days. If we had chained them in Jarr. "Don't you know any haven of would as soon talk about that. I tried the cellar those union pickets would buck that union," he went on in tones have reached them. Pretty soon it fell of infinite melancholy. "I was a big, to my lot to do the washing. And I can I'd like you to meet the man that ru is strong man then, three inches tailer flatter myself that I turn out a good it; his name's Gus and he's a charthan I am to-day, with a five-inch chest wash—am a thoroughly competent laun-expans on and biceps of triple-brass, dress, as it were. Also I can cook, sweep "pie There was pink in my cheek, fire in my and polish like an expert. My wife, fessor eye and I had thick, curly hair. Look though she weighs 200 pounds, is very at me now! Little better than a living delicate. skeleton, bald, sallow, with a lack-lustre "You may not know, but the union has eye and a fluttering lip. My sleep is a sevenading quartet, four singers in filled with nightmares and my waking four languages. Somehow they get a ours made hideous by the jumps.

"The union paid absolutely no heed to "To Be Postful (To Be Postfu

permit to carol in front of the homes of 'It seems ages ago, Mr. Riddle, but it employers of non-union general housewas only a few years. We began with workers. I have thrown things and shot a greenhorn from Pinland whose intel- things at that quartet, but never sucet seemed capable of only one feat- cessfully. They were as clusive as counting money. You couldn't foot her ghosts. After six months of positive

like Maude Adams, and as to "hich of

The lady canary stamped her little

"I just want you to stop boasting about those silly women who make such a fuss over you, Ponsy," she

"Whom do you mean?" asked the Professor.

"This woman, Alfalfa," cried the rofessor's wife. "Why, alfalfa is a grass"-"Yes, I know," chirruped the canary,

widow. And they're the very worst tion of our system of government that

"In the Central and Western States

work for her. It was not until after 1, while in the New England States it that could read and write knew that the laundry man. "We are no cheap

over to the Dog- came around and signed her up. He something mean!" cried the canary-like into a trust-everybody but the officers wood Terrace Local couldn't speak Finnish, but he made her lady again, flourishing her handker- of the Government. That great and No. 13 of the Gen- understand and gave her one of those chief, as she spoke. "He has no regard good man, Andrew Carnegie, take it eral Houseworkers' placards of rules. The union wages for my feelings, no matter where we are from himself, cleaned up more than

myself to the walking delegates of the
"Naturally Mrs. Robb and I were a dear?" asked the hapless Professor.
"Well, the Trust unloads about a
union as a peon, I criffe warm and somewhat bitter. We
"You said that I was irritating you all
billion dollars worth of securities on the met my neighbor, had both slaved to teach that girl the the time," chirruped the Professor's people of the U. S. A. and other coun-

Robb, "that you rested on a charge of endangering the ously on Mrs. Jarr's shoulder; and that "After that we began bringing in non- There, there, dear, I know he didn't

refuge, a saloon near by, where they

have good beer?"

"Then let's beat it!" said the Pro-And they did.

THE IDEA AT LAST.

girls at the intelligence office.

Suburbs-Mercy, no! I engaged one to come Monday and the other a week her statement I would say that a man-tiger of one of the largest corporations to the Editor of The Evening World:

"Substituted the name Baker for lus. She could figure out her wages a flat surrender. Such was my experi-

# REVERIES OF A RIB

By Helen Rowland

Copyright, 1911, by The Press Publishing Co. (The New York World). The Passing of the "Old Maid."

HERE are lots of things in the world besides husbands. It is only lately that this fact has dawned on us; but then it is only lately that there have been such things as beauty doctors, women's clubs, stenography, suffrage and women doctors, lawyers and

Of course there is nothing quite so nice as the "RIGHT

husband.'

"Art" is thrilling-but you can't run your fingers through its hair.

A career is absorbing, but you can't tie pink ribbons round the curls of your "brain children."

Work is beautiful and ennobling, but it never comes

around and pets you or calls you "Baby" when you have nervous headache; it never takes you to dinner or tucks a pillow under your head or tells you that you have the 'cutest little nose in the world."

And all these things the ideal husband is supposed to do, and-sometimes does. Oh, yes, it is quite true that there never was a woman so closely wedded to a "career" that she would not divorce it in a twinkling in order to marry the right man.

But, alas! the RIGHT men are becoming scarcer than mosquitoes in January. There aren't even enough of the wrong ones or of any kind to go all the way around unless we are willing to adopt Mormonism and to be satisfied with one-tenth of a man apiece. Therefore the world is just a little fuller of spinsters than it ever was. But where are the "old maids" gone? Where are those pathetic, pining

creatures in corkscrew curis whose blighted lives were spent in making the rest of the world miserable? I'll tell you where they are: they have all gone into vaudeville. Nobody even BELIEVES in them any more except the joke-writers and the comic artists. In real life they are as much a myth of the past as witches and ogres. An "old maid" I have before defined as "an unmarried woman with more

wrinkles than money." But in these days of wrinkle eradicators and money making opportunities there is not a woman living who can't keep the ratio of wrinkles to dollars as one to a hundred. An "old maid" is a bit of driftwood on the tide of life who has lost her youth, her illusions and her usefulness. As long as a woman has a vivid interest in life, as long as she is accom-

plishing things, as long as she has the energy to curl her hair, wear a straightfront corset and go to work every morning, she may be called a "maid"-b Some time ago The Evening World held a symposium on the question "Whe is a man old?" My answer to that was, "When he ceases to find the game of life worth the candle." And the same answer holds true with a woman. Sh is never old so long as she has her hopes and her illusions, no matter thoug

all her teeth may be false; she is never old so long as there is one thing in life that interests her so much that she would HATE to die! And in these days there are so many things in life besides a man to interest a woman-all the professions, the arts, literature, the stage, settlement work trained nursing and, above all, the absorbing interest of money-making. Adam, bless his heart, may be the MOST interesting thing in creation, but he is not

Yes, there is ALL "CREATION!" And any woman who is whether a mother or a poet, is one with the Divine Spirit—the Spirit of Eternal Youth. The woman who turns out pictures or books or turns over money may not be doing as great a work as the woman who turns out good sons and daughters, but she is doing something infinitely greater than the woman who turns out bad or indifferent sons and daughters, and she is tasting the same thrilling joy of creation, the only real and lasting joy that the world holds for anybody, man or woman. Moreover, a successful laundress is of more use in

the world and distinctly happier than an unsuccessful wife. The very young girl fancies that when she succeeds in getting a husband her fortune is made. Nonsense! It is no more "made" than that of the girl who succeeds in getting a job. The "making" consists in MAKING GOOD. And the woman who doesn't make good is a "failure," whether she has failed in matrimony or out of it. As for the woman who DOES make good, believe me, girlies, she can marry at any hour of the day from that moment on. For, while there are so few men willing to share their fortunes with a woman nowa-

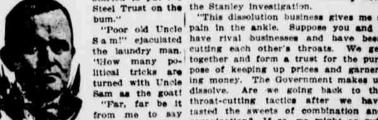
days, there are mighty few who are not willing to share her success with her. Somehow they never think of her as an "old maid"-because an old maid is woman who has shut the door of life on herself and left hope behind! And where will you find one like that to-day?

## The Week's Wash -By Martin Green-

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ELL." remarked the head tee, headed by one Stanley, at the Steel polisher, "they've done it at Trust. And said Stanley has been garlast. Old Uncle Sam has nering the goods. Now comes a Govstarted to put the ernment suit to run coincidentally with Steel Trust on the the Stanley investigation. "Poor old Uncle pain in the ankle. Suppose you and I

jaculated have rival businesses and have



'How many po- together and form a trust for the purlitical tricks are pose of keeping up prices and garner turned with Uncle ing money. The Government makes us Sam as the goat! dissolve. Are we going back to the "Far, far be it throat-cutting tactics after we have from me to say tasted the sweets of combination and that the Steel organization? If so, we might as we

MARTIN GREEN) Trust should not call up the lunatic asylum and engage be dissolved if it is an unlawful comoi- a couple of sunny rooms." her piping little voice. "A grass nation. But it is a queer recommenda-

it has taken us more than ten years to The Professor sighed and rolled up his find out that the United States Steel eyes, and then turned to Mr. Jarr and Corporation is a combination in restraint of trade. "The Sherman law was on the statute teaching her English and doing her corn may be planted along about April books in 1901. Everybody in the country

FTER a sleepless night, during she had let three sneak thieves into the is not safe to seed before May 10 to the J. Pierpont Morgan and others were city. which I speculated over the pleashouse and given the plane to a strange on the plane to a strange of turning my villa truckman that the walking delegate "I just knew he was going to say steel companies and organizing them gathering together a lot of competing Union and bonding called for were double her salary, so of or who is present!"

100,000,000 by selling his plant to the myself to the walk-course she joined on the jump.

"Why, what have I said now, my Trust. He knew it was a Trust, too. \$200,000,000 by selling his plant to the "Well, the Trust unloads about a

Sistsmund Robb, rudimentals. I didn't exert any physiciady, heatedly.

and journeyed cal violence in firing her, but I did throw "Why, my dear. I was speaking of irsteel stocks or bonds. Horny handed across the Hacken-her trunk out of the attile window. The rigation: I did not mention the word capitalists in the steel mills of Pittssteel stocks or bonds. Horny handed got to keep it up. BARTONW.CURRIZ

Suck flats with him.

Trunk broke and two new dresses of Mrs.

Tritation' at all. Trigation! "

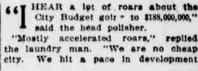
Thow is it." I Robb fell out, also about twenty pieces as keed Neighbor of silverware. Nevertheless I was ar
Robb. "that you will be trunk out of the atme window. The rightion at all. Trigation!"

"It's all the same thing!" was the seven days in the week, are stockholders and so are many widows and orphans. burgh, working twelve hours a day and so are many widows and orphans. You can't lose the widow and the lives of Dogwood Terracers. And Yenna good lady patted her comfortingly, and orphan when it comes to holding stock. "Not an official "and was raised to



spirators in the organization of the a \$20,000,000 towr what's the natter Steel Trust. Not a Government sema- with making a \$200,000,000 front?" phore or flag was set against the scheme. So far as was apparent the Suburbs-Well, I've just engaged two Government acquiesced. Everybody thought the Steel Trust was a violation Urbano-Going to have two maids of the Sherman law, but we are so used to see the law thrown down and kicked 66 in the face that nobody paid any at-

"Now the Government has awakened people of Brooklyn."



"Accelerated Roars."



brakes we cause hard times. "Taxpayers' associations meet protest against improvements. It must

be a terrible thing to be a taxpayer If owning property entails such frightful misery as taxpayers describe in letters to the newspapers it's a wonder they wouldn't sell out. "If I owned property and had to

with \$11 to the tax collector I'd secretly look up some boob and unload my ings and my troubles on him. But Mr. Taxpayer isn't built that way. The owner of property in New York is generally looking for more of it.

"They say we are approaching the stage when it will cost us \$200,000,000 a stop Mr. Morgan and his fellow con- year to run the o'ty. Well, if we are

#### Make Allowances.

"that the Grand Jury of Kings, County views with alarm the in-

time hunting intelligence offices.— tion is approaching. A Democratic for people who have to live in Brook-Judge.

Congress has been launching a commit-